



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**USS NASHVILLE (LPD-13)** ✓  
**FLEET POST OFFICE**  
**NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09579-1715**

5750  
LPD13/ADMIN  
28 Feb 87

**From:** Commanding Officer, USS NASHVILLE (LPD 13)  
**To:** Director of Naval History (Op-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, DC. 20374-0571

**Subj:** COMMAND HISTORY

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

1. The attached USS NASHVILLE (LPD 13) Command History of calendar year 1986 is submitted in accordance with reference (a).

  
JAMES C. VAN SLIKE, JR.

**Copy to:**  
**COMPHIBRON TWELVE**  
**Public Affairs Officer**

## COMMAND HISTORY

### I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

#### A. Ships Mission:

USS NASHVILLE (LPD 13), an Amphibious Transport Dock, is the thirteenth ship of her class. It combines the capabilities of the Amphibious Dock Landing Ship (LSD) and the Helicopter Assault Ship (LPH) into one unit. NASHVILLE'S primary mission is to transport Marines by helicopter and amphibious craft, and provide support to the assault for an extended period of time. NASHVILLE can embark up to 1,465 Navy and Marine Corps officers and enlisted personnel and all the equipment required to make the Marines ready for combat upon arrival in an objective area. Using her vast array of electronics equipment, the Amphibious Squadron or Group Commander can coordinate and control all the air, sea, and ground forces whose support is necessary to ensure the success of an amphibious operation.

#### B. Ship's Insignia:

The insignia of USS NASHVILLE is centered about the thirteen stars which represent the thirteen original colonies. The stars also allude to NASHVILLE as the thirteenth ship of her class of amphibious assault ships in the United States Navy. Surrounding the blue field and white stars is the gold compass rose from the Seal of the Metropolitan Government of the City of Nashville, Tennessee. This symbolizes the link between the ship and her namesake city.

Flanking the compass are the traditional emblems of the Navy and Marine Corps. Emblazoned on the banner is the motto taken from General Nash's dying words on the battlefield at Germantown: "From the first dawn of the Revolution, I have ever been on the side of liberty and my country." During the Revolutionary War, Brigadier General Francis Nash, Continental Army, gave his life for their independence.

C. Organizational Structure: USS NASHVILLE (LPD 13)

Captain J.C. Van Slyke, Jr., Commanding Officer: Dec 84  
Commander T.R. Morrison, Executive Officer: Nov 85  
Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED], Air Officer: until Oct 86  
Lieutenant [REDACTED], Air Officer: Oct 86  
Lieutenant [REDACTED], Operations Officer: until Dec 86  
Lieutenant [REDACTED], Operations Officer: Dec 86  
Lieutenant [REDACTED], Supply Officer: Dec 85  
Lieutenant [REDACTED], Engineering Officer: Dec 85  
Lieutenant [REDACTED], First Lieutenant: Sep 85

SENIOR COMMANDS

COMPHIBGRU TWO: RADM W.M. Fogarty  
COMPHIBRON FOUR: Captain J.M. Quarterman  
COMPHIBRON TWELVE: Captain H.L. Phillips, Jr.

- D. Name of Commander:  
Captain James C. Van Slyke, Jr., USN, [REDACTED]/1110
- E. Ship's Homeport:  
Norfolk, Virginia

## II. CHRONOLOGY

DATE	SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
04-09 JAN	Conducted Basic Engineering/Damage Control Casualty Control Exercises (BECCE/BDCE) for upcoming OPPE.
08-10 JAN	Underway for flight operations and ship's TACAN flight check earning complete certification.
11-28 JAN	Continued with BECCE/BDCE Training.
14-16 JAN	Successfully completed an ammunition onload in Yorktown, VA at the Weapon Station.
29 JAN THRU 21 FEB	Participated in Mardi Gras Celebration at New Orleans, LA, as Naval Support Ship. Responsibilities included the housing of all NJROTC Midshipman attached for the festivities. During this period, an Engineering Mobile Training Team was embarked for all underway periods to enhance all training in preparation for OPPE.
27-28 FEB	Successfully completed an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination with an overall finding of satisfactory.
03 MAR	Conducted an Explosive Safety Review onboard.
12 MAR	Held Seamanship Olympics onboard.
13 MAR	Visited by Nuclear Weapons Assist Team.
13 MAR	Held Damage Control Olympics onboard.
24 MAR	Completed an Ordnance Handling Safety Assist Team (OHSAT) visit.
26 MAR	RADM Fogarty, Commander Amphibious Group TWO visit.
28 MAR	Successfully completed a Command Religious Program Inspection with an overall finding of outstanding.
03-28 MAR	IMAV successfully completed by SIMA Norfolk, VA.
04 APR	Successfully held a NAVSAFECEN Safety Assist visit.
09 APR	Successfully completed an ammunition and explosives onload at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station.
16-17 APR	A Supply Management Inspection (SMI) was successfully completed onboard with an overall grade of satisfactory.

18 APR THRU 18 JUN Successfully conducted SNAP II Implementation Program

23 APR Successfully completed a Command Security Inspection with an overall finding of satisfactory.

28 APR THRU 20 MAY Departed Norfolk Naval Station, VA, for Ocean Venture '86 (Note 2. of Narrative).

02 MAY NASHVILLE completed an excellent underway replenishment evolution with USNS WACAMAW.

04 MAY NASHVILLE transferred fuel/personnel to USS AVENGER via UNREP and HI-Line Transfer.

28 MAY Conducted a personnel inspection in conjunction with an awards ceremony on the flight deck.

03-05 JUN Completed the Command Inspection held by COMPHIBRON TWELVE, with an overall grade of outstanding.

04-05 JUN Successfully completed a Collection, Holding, and Transfer System Improvement Program.

04-06 JUN Successfully completed Elevator Improvement Program.

08 JUN Conducted ship's picnic at NAB, Little Creek, VA.

06-10 JUN Successfully completed Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE) for Amphibious Refresher Training.

11 JUN The final contributions of the Navy Relief Drive were collected this day with a grand total of \$7,278,70. A 42 percent increase from the 1985 drive.

23 JUN THRU 08 JUL Participated in International Naval Review '86 in New York Harbor in honor of Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday celebration. Acted as Flag Ship for RADM Young and his INR 86 staff. Hosted visit by Secretary of the Navy, Mr. John F. Lehman.

09-11 JUL Conducted a Conveyor Improvement Program onboard.

14-21 JUL Successfully completed Amphibious Refresher Training with a final overall score of 98 percent for 20 graded exercises.

29 JUL Successfully held NAVSEA TECH Library Visit.

31 JUL Successfully completed a Communication Readiness Assist Visit.

31 JUL Completed Legal Aid Assist Visit onboard with overall finding of satisfactory.

07 AUG Successfully conducted Cosmic Control Point Inspection with an overall finding of satisfactory.

12 AUG THRU Participated in Northern Wedding/Bold Guard '86.  
20 OCT

29 AUG Awarded the Royal Order of the Blue Nose on this date.

19 SEP Conducted underway replenishment with USS PLATTE.

03 OCT Nominated for TOP GATOR (Amphibious Excellence) Award (Note 3. of Narrative).

09 OCT Conducted underway replenishment with USS PLATTE.

13 OCT Conducted underway replenishment with USS PLATTE.

15 OCT Conducted underway replenishment with USS PLATTE.

17 OCT Conducted underway replenishment with USS PLATTE.

23 OCT THRU IMAV successfully completed by SIMA Norfolk, VA.  
19 NOV

27 OCT THRU Combat System Readiness Review completed by MOTU TWO.  
06 NOV

03 NOV Awarded the Battle "E" Efficiency Ribbon for period of 31 March 1985 thru 30 September 1986 (Note 1. of Narrative).

03-04 NOV Completed a Physical Security Assist Visit.

03-05 NOV Completed a 3-M Assist Visit onboard this date.

03-06 NOV Completed an Environmental Health Survey this date.

09-14 NOV Auxiliary Systems Readiness Review conducted this period.

10 NOV LT [REDACTED] relieved LCDR [REDACTED] as Air Officer this day.

12-14 NOV Ordnance Handling and Safety Assist Team visited for inspection.

18 NOV The Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic visited NASHVILLE.

24-25 NOV Completed a Nuclear Weapons Assist Team Visit with an end result of satisfactory.

24-25 NOV The ship's 3-M Inspection was held onboard with a final grade of 89 percent.

25 NOV Aviation Readiness Evaluation Inspection was completed with grade of satisfactory.

03-16 DEC MARG 2-87 Blue/Green Water work-ups conducted during this period.

17-31 DEC Upkeep period/Leave period.

29 DEC LT [REDACTED] relieved LT [REDACTED] as Operations Officer.

9 JAN 87 Awarded COMNAVSURFLANT Amphibious Warfare Excellence Award ("Top Gator") for 1985-86 competitive year.

### III. NARRATIVES

Note 1. **Battle "E"**: In November of 1986, after the completion of an eighteen month Battle Efficiency Competitive Cycle, NASHVILLE was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" as the best ship of the class in Amphibious Squadron TWELVE. She also received Departmental Awards for Amphibious Warfare, Communications, Electronic Warfare, and Damage Control. These awards signify the professionalism and dedication of the crew of USS NASHVILLE proving once again, she is ready to serve.

Note 2. **OCEAN VENTURE '86**: Ocean Venture '86 was designed to test the command and control of assigned forces, to show their ability of rapid deployment and employment, as well as the integration of reserve troops into active daily units. The exercise took place in the United States, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Caribbean. RADM Ted C. Steele, USN, Commander, U.S. Forces Caribbean, was the officer conducting the exercise. The exercise was designated to demonstrate the capability of the United States to project military power, when necessary to protect our national interests by supporting our friendly neighbors in the Caribbean. Ocean Venture '86 included all aspects of a modern warfare scenario including Naval Battle Group Operations; joint U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps Air Operations; Navy/Marine Amphibious Operations; Army Airborne, Air Assault and Infantry Ground Operation; and Special Operation Forces in support of Conventional Forces. More than 20,000 Military/Civilian Personnel participated.

Note 3. **COMNAVSURFLANT Warfare Excellence Award**: Commencing with the 1985-86 Battle "E" competitive cycle, COMNAVSURFLANT sponsored an amphibious warfare award recognizing the ship which had excelled in Amphibious Warfare, known as the Amphibious Warfare Excellence Award (Top Gator). NASHVILLE was nominated by COMPHIBRON TWELVE to receive the Top Gator Award within the ship class category which includes LHA, LPH, LPD, AGF and LHD-1 class ships. NASHVILLE was nominated for the following accomplishments:

Superb performance in all areas during MARG 1-85, Ocean Venture 86 and Northern Wedding 86.

Professionalism in meeting all taskings and demonstrated standards of military smartness.

Flawlessly executed COMPHIBRON TWELVE Change of Command.

Exhibited superior performance during Mardi Gras 86 and International Naval Review 86.

Bravo Zulu for exceptional Amphibious Refresher Training performance.

Along with the many highlights in this Command History and the above mentioned accomplishments, NASHVILLE was presented the TOP GATOR Award for competitive year 1985-86, for having demonstrated the most superior and sustained performance in Amphibious Warfare Excellence.



#### IV. STATISTICAL DATA

1. Burned 3,138,689 gallons of F-76 Fuel Oil during calendar year 1986.
2. Delivered 61,613 gallons of JP-5 Aviation Fuel during calendar year 1986.

Monthly issue was as follows:

January: 670 Gallons	July: 5717 Gallons
February: 3951 Gallons	August: 3716 Gallons
March: 60 Gallons	September: 7839 Gallons
April: 620 Gallons	October: 2344 Gallons
May: 16,722 Gallons	November: 525 Gallons
June: 2566 Gallons	December: 16,883 Gallons

3. During calendar year 1986, the following ammunition was expended to maintain NASHVILLE'S Operational Readiness.

12 Gauge Shotgun Ammo	92 RDS
.22 Cal Ammo	450 RDS
7.62 MM Ammo	1497 RDS
.45 Cal Ammo	1778 RDS
.50 Cal Machine Gun Ammo	1600 RDS
20 MM CIWS Ammo	2156 RDS
3" 50 Cal: BL&P	71 RDS
3" 50 Cal: HE-PD	15 RDS
5.125 In Chaff	16 RDS
Marine Location Markers	4 MKR
3" 50 ELEC/Percussion Primers	183 PMR

4. Number of underway replenishments totaled: 8

UNREP Receiving fuel:	6
UNREP Transferring fuel:	1
UNREP Transferring personnel:	1